

year is going to be to reform eligibility standards for health care. We strongly believe that Congress should not cut funding for V.A. outpatient clinics while unobligated balances remain in a program such as AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps pays so-called volunteers to perform services that millions of Americans already do without seeking any financial reward.

In fiscal year 1994, volunteers contributed a total of over 14 million hours of their time over 92,000 regularly scheduled volunteers. Of the 20,000 AmeriCorps volunteers in the field today, over one-fourth are working in either Federal or State agencies. This is not a priority, Mr. Chairman. This is not even volunteerism.

Mr. Chairman, as I said at the onset, I believe the Stump-Solomon amendment, along with the gentleman from Florida [Mr. YOUNG] and the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS], presents a simple choice for Federal spending priorities. I believe this choice is crystal clear, and hope all Members will support our veterans over AmeriCorps, and also will support this amendment to final passage.

Current statutory requirements dictate a counterproductive bias in favor of costly inpatient treatment for veterans.

Cutting VA outpatient construction would be a tremendous setback to the Veterans' Affairs Committee's policy initiatives favoring a more rapid shift to outpatient care.

We strongly believe Congress should not cut funding for VA outpatient clinics and medical equipment while unobligated balances remain in a program such as AmeriCorps.

AmeriCorps pays so-called volunteers to perform services that millions of Americans already do without seeking any financial reward.

The Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service [VAVS] is in its 48th year of service to this Nation's hospitalized veterans in VA health care facilities.

In fiscal year 1994, VAVS volunteers contributed a total of over 14 million hours of their time mostly from 92,534 regularly scheduled volunteers.

It is hard to think of a better example for America's youth than this program of true volunteers performing services to our veteran's without the expectation or need for financial reward.

AmeriCorps targets the same population group for its members as the military services, and they both use educational benefits as a major incentive.

In testimony before the House National Security Committee on March 7, 1995, the Marine Corps stated that in fiscal year 1994, the Marines did not achieve their enlistment contracting goals for recruiting.

For the first quarter of fiscal year 1995, all services failed to meet requirements for new enlistment contracts.

DOD's awareness and attitude study is the measurement tool for estimating the propensity of American youth to join the military.

Fiftysix percent felt AmeriCorps and other programs were better ways to get money for college than joining the military.

AmeriCorps is hurting military recruiting, and will be a much larger problem for recruiting if it is allowed to expand.

Rather than promoting American's desire for smaller and more efficient government, AmeriCorps is channeling its participants into Federal and State bureaucracies.

Of the 20,000 AmeriCorps volunteers in the field today, over one-fourth are working in Federal or State agencies.

This is not a priority.

This is not volunteerism.

Mr. Chairman, as I said at the outset, I believe the Stump-Solomon amendment presents a simple choice for Federal spending priorities.

I believe the choice is crystal clear and hope all Members will support our veterans and vote for this amendment.

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING STUMP-SOLOMON AMENDMENT TO RESTORE VETERANS PROGRAM CUTS WITH AMERICORPS REDUCTIONS

Paralyzed Veterans of America.
AMVETS.
Air Force Association.
Air Force Sergeants Association.
Association of Military Surgeons of the US.

Association of the US Army.
Commissioned Officers Association of the US Public Health Service, Inc.

Chief Warrant & Warrant Officers Association of US Coast Guard.

Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the US.

Fleet Reserve Association.
Jewish Reserve Association.
Marine Corps League.
Marine Corps Reserve Officers Association.
Military Chaplains Association of the USA.
National Association for Uniformed Services.

National Guard Association of the US.
National Military Family Association.
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association.
Naval Reserve Association.
Navy League of the US.
Non Commissioned Officers Association.
Reserve Officers Association.
The Retired Enlisted Association.
The Retired Officers Association.
US Army Warrant Officers Association.
US Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association.

United Armed Forces Association.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. STUMP. I am happy to yield to the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON].

Mr. SOLOMON. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Chairman, we know what this amendment does. As the former ranking member on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for a number of years, I can say that these outpatient clinics, especially with the aging veteran population we have in America, will save this Government money in the long run.

The reason we are taking the offsets from the National Service Corps is because of something that happened on this floor 2 years ago, when the National Service Corps legislation first came to the floor. I offered an amendment at that time which would not allow the funds for the National Service Corps to come out of the 602(b) allocations of the Department of Veterans Affairs, HUD, and independent agencies. Instead, they would come out of

the education and labor 602(b) allocations, as it should be.

I was assured by the Democrat then-chairman of the Education & Labor Committee that my amendment would be supported in conference, and it would stay there is the legislation. Unfortunately, when that bill went to conference, the chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor did not support my amendment. It was dropped.

What we are doing today, Mr. Chairman, is sort of a get-even. What should have been done 2 years ago is going to be done today. Once this amendment is adopted, it means that any future funding for the National Service Corps whether funding the corps is good or bad, and I think it is bad—veterans programs will not compete with the National Service Corps for Federal funds at a time when the existing appropriated funds for veterans barely cover the health benefits of those citizens.

On top of undermining military recruiting, ruining the true spirit of volunteerism, creating a new and costly bureaucracy, and serving less than one-half of 1 percent of the population, this National Service Program will steal the funds from veterans' hospitals, veterans' families, and veterans' benefits.

That is what I said 2 years ago. That is exactly the problem we are correcting today. That is why Members should support this amendment here today with a unanimous vote of this Congress.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] is recognized for 15 minutes, and controls the time under his unanimous-consent request.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 6 minutes.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. LEWIS of California. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Chairman.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

I want to make a point of order that the gentleman's unanimous consent to have 15 minutes was not acted upon, because I yielded to him 5 of my 15 minutes.

The CHAIRMAN. Subsequently the Chairman put the request for unanimous consent and there were no objections.

The gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] is recognized for 15 minutes, and controls 15 minutes.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida for his parliamentary inquiry.